

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California Native Captures Increase Again

Native Pink Bollworm (PBW) captures increased significantly again this past week. There was a 46% increase, bringing the weekly total of native pink bollworm moths to 25,050. This represents an average of 64 native moths per trap. The average moth capture per trap at this time last year was 94. Sterile moth release continues to operate smoothly in Southern California and 1,971,040 sterile moths were released this week. The season total is now 22,148,920 sterile moths released.

Five traps have been placed along Ogilby Road to document PBW moth migration. This highway trap line runs through the desert from Highway 8 northwest to Highway 78. While there is no cotton for several miles, 65 native Pink Bollworm moths were caught in the 5 traps.

A Quiet Week in the San Joaquin Valley

The trapping of San Joaquin Valley cotton continues to operate smoothly. The Shafter Identification lab examined 540 suspect traps, 8% higher than last week. The lab identified 6,017 PBW moths. This represents 33% fewer sterile moths recovered compared to last week. Late season sprays to control other insect species could account for the reduced recovery rate. High temperatures have been favorable conditions for moth activity. No native PBW moths were trapped.

Cotton fields are showing signs of maturity. Ideal weather conditions have increased cotton growth in Fresno County and other areas. Many cotton fields are nearing the end of bloom and boll setting.

The second round of Sterile Insect Planting (SIP) was performed this past week. Irradiated (sterile) non-dyed moths are placed/planted in PBW traps for quality assurance. The planting process ensures the Program that trappers are properly inspecting traps and “turning in suspect moths” to the Identification Lab (ID). It also provides a “check” of ID Lab techniques. The SIP results will be known next week.



A trap and lure change is scheduled for the first week of September in Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. PBW staff will not work on Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day. However, staff will be working on Friday, September 7, their regular scheduled day off.

Sacramento Valley Trap Placement Is Completed

Traps are in place in Northern California cotton and will be inspected in 3 to 5 weeks.